



STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 4  
Date 2-9-07  
Bill No. SB-359

February 2, 2007

Senator Vicki Cocchiarella  
Chairperson  
Senate Business, Labor & Economic Affairs  
Helena, Mt

Dear Senator Cocchiarella and members of the committee:

I find it very difficult to write this letter because I would much rather be in front of this wonderful committee in person. Sue and I have to make a out of state trip on business and will not be back in time for this hearing. My testimony will be read and I ask your forgiveness for not appearing in person. I used to be on the BOHR many years ago as a commission member and thereby my testimony will reflect on my previous experiences. My thanks to each and every one of you for doing a great service to the citizens of our state as I know the deep concern you all have to make our states business climate as good as possible.

Respectfully yours

Dale Mahlum

I AM A ADVOCATE OF BRINGING A NEW HOME TO THE BOHR ,THIS BEING INTO THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE.

ONE OF THE REASONS I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO OUR HORSE INDUSTRY IS THAT WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND PLAN FOR A HORSE INDUSTRY THAT WILL BE A VIABLE AND PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRY. WE MUST PLAN FOR THE BREEDING AND RAISING OF HORSES THAT WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A HORSE THAT IS RACED FOR THE PLEASURE OF OUR MONTANA CITIZENS. MUCH OF THIS WORK IS DONE AT SMALL FARMS IN EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF OUR STATE, SMALL COMMUNITIES AND LARGE COMMUNITIES ALIKE.

WHAT DOES THE DEPT OF AG GIVE US THAT THE DEPT OF LIVESTOCK DOES NOT DO.

WELL, THE DEPT OF LIVESTOCK IS A REGULATORY AGENCY WHILE THE DEPT OF AGRI IS BOTH THIS AND ALSO A DEPT WHERE BE THE BOHR CAN GET HELP IN PROMOTING THE INDUSTRY OF HORSE BREEDING AND RACING. WE NEED TO HAVE A DEPT WHEREBY THEY WILL HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO HELP WITH THE PROMOTION OF OUR INDUSTRY, SIMILAR TO WHAT THE DEPT OF AG DOES FOR

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY, IT JUST SEEMS A GREAT FIT FOR THIS AGENCY TO HELP WITH THE PROMOTION OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY. WHEN THIS CHANGE TAKES PLACE, THERE SHOULD BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF THE WORKING OF THE BOHR AS IT WILL ONLY TAKE A MOVE FROM ONE AGENCY TO ANOTHER AS THIS WAS DONE IN THE 2001 SESSION AND IT SEEMED LIKE A SEAMLESS MOVE AT THAT TIME. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO REORGANIZE THE BOHR AS THE SAME PERSONAL COULD BE UTILIZED AS IS NOW.

THE THINKING OF CHANGING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS FROM 7 TO 5 MEMBERS CERTAINLY HAS A LOT OF MERIT AS HORSE RACING HAS DIMINISHED IN OUR STATE THROUGH THE BETTING OF THE PARI-MUTUAL MACHINES TO THE EXTENT OF BETTING IN THE 1980'S WAS 13 MILLION BET THROUGH THE PARI-MUTUAL MACHINES TO AT THIS TIME NOW LESS THAN 2 MILLION IS BET IN OUR STATE A YEAR DURING OUR RACE MEETS. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COMMISSION SIZE OF 5 MEMBERS, THIS WAS THE SIZE DURING THE 70'S—80'S WHEN WE HAD SUCH GREAT HANDLE THROUGH THE PARI-MUTUAL MACHINES AT THE RACE TRACKS.

MANY OF OUR SISTER STATES HAVE A 5 MEMBER COMMISSION AND IT SERVES THEM SUFFICIENTLY.

WE MUST BE ABLE TO REGULATE, WHICH WE DO NOW, AND WE MUST BE ABLE TO PROMOTE WHICH IS NOT IN THE RULES NOW. WE WANT THIS PUT INTO THE RULES SO IN THE FUTURE, IT CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY BY A RULES CHANGE.

WE MUST ALSO BE VERY COGNIZANT OF HOW WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BREEDING ACTIVITIES AND THE RACING PORTION OF OUR INDUSTRY----ONE MUST BE DEPENDENT ON THE OTHER---IN OTHER WORDS, WE CANNOT JUST PUT ALL OF OUR ASSETS INTO THE RACING END OF THE INDUSTRY--WE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE BREEDING END OF THE INDUSTRY WITH BREEDERS BONUS'S AND BE VERY HELPFUL TO THIS INDUSTRY AS SO MANY SMALL FARMERS AND RANCHERS BREED AND EITHER SELL OR RACE THEIR PRODUCE. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ISSUE FOR OUR STATE AS THE HORSE BREEDING AND RACING IS A 45 MILLION AGRI BUSINESS IN OUR STATE.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE CURRENT

BOHR TO BE MOVED TO THE DEPT OF AGRI FOR  
MANY REASONS AND FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS  
INDUSTRY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. WE  
ARE TRYING TO STRUCTURE OUR  
INDUSTRY—SO PLEASE GIVE US THIS REQUEST  
SO THE CITIZENS 20-30-40 YEARS FROM NOW  
CAN ENJOY AND WORK IN THIS INDUSTRY.

DALE MAHLUM  
CHAIR, GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE OF HORSE  
INDUSTRY